

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The need to preserve data integrity requires that a primary storage location for data be backed-up, i.e., that a copy of the data on the primary storage location be made and kept in at least one secondary storage location. Where the primary storage location is a non-volatile storage device used by a server connected to a network, the server must copy the data from its non-volatile storage device to a secondary back-up device. Given the great volume of data processed and generated each day in the present computing environment, a copy operation to backup data can significantly diminish the bandwidth of a server that is otherwise available to a client.

Please replace Paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Fig. 2 is a block diagram depiction of a 3PCE architecture according to an embodiment of the invention;

Please replace Paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] Fig. 4 is a block diagram depiction of an second embodiment of a 3PCE architecture according to the invention;

Please replace Paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] Fig. 2 is a depiction of a 3PCE (again, third party copy engine) architecture 200 according to an embodiment of the invention. Fig. 3 is a block diagram depiction of some of the hardware components (e.g., 302-316) within a typical server 300, e.g., host/server 201, as well as typical peripheral devices attached thereto, e.g., monitor, keyboard, mouse, etc. The system 200 of Fig. 2 includes a host/server 201 that is running application programs 206, 208

and 210. These programs correspond to programs 104, 106 and 108 of the background art except for their use of the copy agent (or liaison) 204 according to an embodiment of the invention as well as the application program interface (API) 202 (according to an embodiment of the invention). The third party copy engine ("3PCE") architecture of Fig. 2 shows the 3PCE 112 as being physically distinct from the data storage devices 114, 116 and 118. The host 201 is shown as connecting to the 3PCE 112 through an optional packet transformer 110 (such as a FIBRE CHANNEL SWITCH) and also optionally through the internet 120.

Please replace Paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] ~~In contrast, the~~ The 3PCE 112 of Fig. 2 is external to each of the backup storage devices 114, 116 and 118. The 3PCE 404 communicates with the other storage devices 116 and 118 through the optional SAN 124. An example of such a RAID device 402 is the type of RAID device made available by the HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY, mentioned above.

Please replace Paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] Fig. 4 is a block diagram depiction of a 3 PCE architecture 400 according to an embodiment of the invention. Fig. 5 is a version of Fig. 4 that is more detailed in some respects as well as more simplified in some respects (e.g., the packet transformer 110, the internet 120 and the tape drive 118 are not shown). As such, Fig. 5 depicts a 3PCE architecture 500 according to an embodiment of the present invention, where the 3PCE architecture 500 corresponds to the 3PCE architecture 400.

Please add the following paragraph:

[0033.1] The architecture 500 depicts an application program 506 that includes a resolve agent 504. The application program 506 is similar to any one of the application programs 206, 208 or 210, except that the resolve agent 504 is depicted as a discrete component, whereas it is considered integral (to the extent that it is present) in the application programs 206, 208, and 210. In addition, the host/server 502 includes an operating system (OS) layer 508, a file system 510 and LVM/device 512 that together correspond to the TCP/IP stack, and one or more device drivers 514 that together correspond to the network interface capability (NIC).

Please add the following paragraph:

[0138.1] Fig. 6 is a flowchart of process steps carried out by an application program that makes use of the liaison according to an embodiment of the invention. Fig. 7 is a flowchart depicting process steps carried out by the liaison according to an embodiment of the invention. Fig. 6 puts Fig. 7 into context, hence Fig. 7 will be discussed in detail before Fig. 6 is discussed in detail.

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